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NSC BRIEFING

30 October 1960

UAR-JORDAN

I. Relations between the UAR and Jordan may be reaching a critical phase. Acute strains were caused by the assassination of Jordanian Prime Minister Majalli on 29 August and by the subsequent deployment of troops on both sides of the Jordanian-Syrian frontier. The situation eased somewhat in late September and early October when both Nasir and King Husayn were attending UN meetings in New York, but it has taken a sharp turn for the worse since their return home.

A. The two leaders have been engaging in extraordinarily strong verbal warfare, the propaganda organs of each country have been openly urging rebellion, and both sides have closed down border traffic.

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II. If such UAR operations were successful and pro-UAR elements moved to seize power in Jordan, Israeli military intervention would be likely.

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